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Date: January 16, 2004

By:

Carol A. See

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PATENT
Docket No. GC647

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

OFFICIAL

In re Application of)

Rodriguez *et al.*)

Group Art Unit: 1639

Serial No.: 09/729,520)

Examiner: Epperson, Jon D.

Filed: December 4, 2000)

For: Method for Generating a Library of)
Mutant Oligonucleotides Using the)
Linear Cyclic Amplification Reaction)**RESPONSE TO FINAL OFFICE ACTION MAILED NOVEMBER 21, 2003**Commissioner for Patents
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed November 21, 2003, Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be made. Reconsideration of the above-referenced patent application is respectfully requested. Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2, while the Remarks begin on page 4, and the Conclusion is on page 10. None of the amendments to the Claims is intended to narrow the scope of any of the amended Claims within the meaning of *Festo*¹. As the present Response is being filed within two (2) months of the mailing date of the present Final Office Action, Applicants respectfully request that an Advisory Action or Notice of Allowance/Issue Fee Due be provided, following the Examiner's consideration of the present Response.

¹ *Festo Corp. v. Shoketsu Kogyo Kabushiki Co.*, No. 95-1066, 2000 WL 1753646 (Fed. Cir. Nov. 29, 2000).